



## **September 2019 ECP Middle School Newsletter**

What a great start to the year we have had! Badger Pride is evident across the school and the entire campus. There is a feeling of hope and excitement for our future. Let's go Badgers!

### **ECPMS Playground Project Update**

Many of you have been wondering about the delay of our BB court and Gaga Pit. Unfortunately, we are in a holding pattern until we can raise funds and finish building the new High School. The great news is the current MS students will have a new HS school to move into within a few years. The portable building(s) that will house the HS students and staff will have to go on the MS playground's lot, thus delaying our project. We are continuing to raise funds as we are approximately \$7,000 short having enough money for the remaining project. So far with funds donated by **Pauls Valley National Bank of Elmore**, we have purchased Nine Square in the Air for \$800, a tetherball set for \$160, and a basketball goal for \$1,100. Our Gaga Pit lumber and hardware will total \$1,500 and the estimate for the concrete was approx. \$4,000. The rebar, sand, labor for pouring of the concrete, finishing the concrete, and cementing of the BB goal was \$6655. Finally, we will use repurposed chain link from the old outfield fence, but we will need \$1,100 in posts, quikrete, caps, ties, wire, and gate supplies. Thank you for your patience and dedication in helping us reach our goal to build a MS playground.

### **Student Accomplishments, Honors or Events**

#### **Sept. Students of the Month**

6th Grader - Finley Martin

7th Grader - Austynn Duley

8th Grader - Paige Childress

\* **Big Kahuna Cookie Sales for MS fundraiser begins Sept. 17th.** We will be raising funds for our future playground area and class field trips!

\* **Late Start Wednesdays** will begin Oct. 9th, every other week for the remainder of the school year. This will allow our teachers to meet and work in Professional Learning Communities. Busses will run 1 hour later. Breakfast will be served at the MS at 8:35 am. Classes will begin at 8:45 am. Thank you for your help and cooperation as we make this transition.

## **Good Things are Happening at the Middle School**

**Stacey McCaa's Classes** -Seventh and Eighth grades have been reading in Scope Magazine about the Berlin Wall while learning new vocabulary and Language Arts skills. Eighth grade will begin an argument writing unit next week. Not only will they learn how to write an argument, but they will also learn how to have a meaningful verbal discussion with those who they disagree with. 6th grade math classes are working on ratios and real life problem solving while 8th grade are working on solving equations. 4H meetings have begun for grades 3rd -12th grade. Officer elections will be happening the next week for grades 7-12th for 4H. Creative Writing Contest is coming up on October 8. Archery will begin after fall break.

**Ann Harrel's Classes-** Our Computer classes are working on coding right now. We have done several projects that involved dialogue, characterization, animating characters, incorporating sound, and moving characters around backdrops. 6th and 7th grade Math has been working on ratios and proportions. 7th grade is also beginning work on slope of lines. 8th grade Math has begun working with integers (positive and negative numbers), and will continue graphing lines and slope.

**Willie Harrell's Classes** - 7th Grade Geography are studying how the earth is constantly changing, and how these changes affect earth's environments and how it influences cultures around the world. 8th grade US History are studying the reasons why the Colonists declared their independence, and how every colonist man, woman, black or white played a part in gaining freedom from Britain.

**Angela Sawyer's Classes** - 6th grade students are studying the relationship between fractions, decimals, and percents. 7th grade students are finishing up the 1st chapter of their book with linear relationships and direct variation. 8th grade students are reviewing how to add and subtract integers. Our STEAM classes have created stop motion videos. They just finished a unit over the elements of art. We are now working on engineering and design skills to create a mousetrap car, using simple machines.

**Jennifer Earp's Classes** - Seventh and Eighth grades have been reading in Scope magazine about the Berlin Wall while learning new vocabulary and Language Arts skills. Seventh grade will be practicing their writing skills by writing a news article about the wall. Eighth grade will begin an argument writing unit next week. Not only will they learn how to write an argument, but they will also learn how to have a meaningful verbal discussion with those who they disagree with.

**Mike Harris' Classes** - English classes are going well as we study the 8 Parts of Speech. Students are doing fairly well. We have just finished Adjectives and taken our first test. In Science, we are presently studying Physical Science. Students are now in the Periodic Table of Elements. They will be putting their skills to test as we play Periodic Bingo where winners will receive prizes. In Social Studies, students are studying the geography of the world and its environments and cultures.

**Jerrie Doss's Classes** - Our Health/Archery classes have spent the first few weeks of school learning about their health. They have learned parts of the heart, lungs, and brain and how they function and work together. They have learned to take their pulse rate before and after exercise to track/monitor fitness levels. They have been doing Tabata workouts daily to show them they can get a great workout in their day and only takes a few minutes. They have learned how exercise helps to stimulate the brain to help them retain the things they are learning in school and how rest helps the brain to dispose of unnecessary items that may be stored daily. They have also learned about how hygiene affects the health and general well being of a person. They have learned basic CPR and AED (non-certified) in case it is needed, so they won't be afraid of what an emergency operator might ask them to do.

Our Life Skills classes have done a few of the same things, for example they have also learned about the pulse and done Tabata workouts and learned how staying healthy can help them learn and function better during the day. We have been working on learning about how to treat others, self perception and perception of others, and how to show kindness even when someone is being rude. The students have been making a folder for storing their classwork. The folder was a project to see how they see themselves. They had to put their name on the front and list a word that describes who they are. They also had to go through a stack of magazines and cut out a few pictures and mostly words that describe who they are, what they enjoy doing, and things they like and glue those items to the inside of the folders. At the end of the semester they will add things to the back of the folder to see if their perceptions have changed any since the beginning of the project.

**Stephen McCleskey** - My Computer Apps section has been working in Scratch, a block-coding platform built to teach basic coding and logic to younger students. They are currently working on animating their names. The 6th grade band has been working towards their pages of concert music. The 7th grade band has been working on their honor band audition materials. We have had great success in students winning chairs in both our middle school district and region honor bands. I am expecting that same level of success this year as well.

**Kristal Patterson's Classes** - 7th & 8th grade Science has just finished learning about Scientific Methods, Lab Safety, and Lab Symbols. 8th grade is learning about the types of cells.

Cross Country had their first meet on Friday 9/6 and came home with 4 medals in the middle school division.